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OCI No. 1658/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
9 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report # 194 - Summary of Situation  
from 9:00 pm EDT - 5:00 am EDT)

Résumé

The night hours were relatively quiet and no major violations of the ceasefire were reported. Additional information on the organization and plans of the new Government of National Reconstruction suggest that it is getting off to a slow but methodical start under Antonio Imbert's leadership. There is reason to hope that it will be able on Monday to begin paying back wages to laborers throughout the country--a move that will do much to consolidate its control in the provinces. The rebels, largely because of their continued control of Radio Santo Domingo, still have the propaganda edge over the Imbert government, but the latter is moving to improve its position in this field. Reports from the countryside indicate general calm, though some unrest is reported in La Romana and pro-rebel sentiment has been noted in other areas in the eastern part of the country.

1. The Government of National Reconstruction has made two more key appointments in addition to the naming of former Navy Chief of Staff Rivera Caminero as secretary of state of the armed forces and police. Horacio Vicioso was named foreign minister. He is an experienced and capable diplomat who has served as second ranking officer in the Dominican embassy in Washington. Regarded as friendly to the United States, he is believed to lean politically toward President Joaquin Balaguer. He plans quickly to communicate with other Free World governments requesting diplomatic recognition. The other key appointment was the naming of Danilo Brugal as director of press and public relations for the government. This is an indication of Imbert's recognition of the need quickly to counter the rebels' propaganda advantage. Imbert has also indicated that he plans a press conference for foreign correspondents today and that he intends to have a government radio station on the air soon.

State Dept. review completed

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2. Officials of Imbert's government were working urgently yesterday on ways and means of paying back wages to day laborers throughout the country for the second half of April. A technical team of Dominican experts was named by Imbert to solve pressing economic problems and the problem of back wages is receiving first priority. Their aim is to begin the payments on Monday and to establish the means to meet the first May payday on Friday, the 14th.

3. A US Government team in the eastern town of La Romana reports that most of the sugar mills in the area are now operating, but that the mills have no money to pay the workers. Many refugees are arriving from the capital, further aggravating the bad food situation. Most of the people sympathize with the rebels. In the far eastern city of Higuey it has been quiet since the insurrection began, but [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] almost one hundred percent of the population is with the rebel cause. In the nearby city of El Seibo, the police and army units are nervous but loyal. Though the town is described as traditionally conservative [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] most of the young people are anti-US and support the "constitutionalist" cause.

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4. Both moderate and leftist wings of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party (PRSC) have expressed their opposition to any government led by Antonio Imbert. Many young members of the leftist wing are, in fact, with the Cammano rebels.

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